

WEEKAPAUG FIRE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Moderator Doug Randall. Those in attendance were Doug Randall, Frank Kinney, Susie Mackay, Jim Maynard and Emily Mugge, officers of the Weekapaug Fire District; Members-at-Large attending were Carol Carmody and Amy Carvell; Commissioners attending were Tom Dwyer, Howard Hyde, and Scott Wakeman. Also attending were former Board Member Lang Heminway, former Moderator Rick Constantine and WFD attorney Deming Sherman.

Those absent were Gale Hunt, Sue Lester, Dan Richards and Peter Seidenberg.

The Minutes of the March 22, 2014 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Maynard reported that he is working on reformatting future financial reports to meet new state reporting requirements for fire districts.

Jim believes that it would be prudent for the WFD to change its year-end from April 30 to December 31. Jim will have more information for the WFD concerning the change from April to December year-end dates in July.

Tax Assessor's Report: Jim reported that almost all of the taxes assessed for this year have been collected. He expects the

outstanding balance to be paid in full by the end of June.

Commissioners' Reports:

Beach: Scott Wakeman reported that all the lifeguards for the summer have been hired. Tom Gulluscio is working with Tom Dwyer to oversee the guards.

The guards will assist the WYC with the swim test that is administered every year.

It was recommended that the WFD review its insurance coverage for the beaches.

Public Safety: Tom Dwyer reported that the summer staff is all set. Most of the guards worked for WFD last year; only one person is new to the WFD. There will not be any changes in policing policies or procedures this year. The primary focus for all the guards will be safety.

Tom will meet with the new MFD chief, Shannon Earle.

Public Works: Howard said that the snow fence on the Fenway captured a huge amount of sand, more than had been expected. The Inn Beach is in good shape.

Howard will hire a company to fill potholes in the WFD. Winona and Fenway Roads are scheduled to be repaired by the Town of Westerly this year, but Howard doesn't have a target date from the town.

Howard will try to get estimates to repair private roads in the WFD. It was agreed that repair work should be undertaken.

There is concern that boulders on Weekapaug Point are unstable and could be dangerous. The Town of Westerly engineers have told Howard that the Point is the state's responsibility, not the Town's. Howard will find out if there are any plans to address concerns at the Point.

QBCC: The owners of the barrier beach came together to discuss conservation efforts along the entire beach. It was decided that the best course of action is to leave the beach alone. Some actions that might appear to be beneficial could instead result in sand filling the jetty and Quonnie Pond. In addition, work to build up the berm and increase vegetation on the beach over the years has always been destroyed by storm damage. There has been no measureable benefit to the preservation of the beach as a result of the hours of work undertaken.

The experiment to put up a winter fence on the west end of the beach (the Inn Beach) will not increase the amount of sand deposited in the jetty. The impact of the fence will be measured and monitored to determine if the experiment is successful.

Grading the WYC, Shelter Harbor and Shady Harbor parking lots will be completed by the end of May.

MARINA UPDATE: Slip rental fees have been increased to \$500 for residents, \$600 for continuing non-residents and \$700 for new non-residents.

The Town of Westerly sponsored a grant with the US Department of

Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Services, and Emergency Watershed Protection Program-Recovery to dredge Winnapaug Pond as a result of the impact of Storm Sandy. The grant has been approved.

At this time, dredging will be limited to the breachway. The estimated start date is Oct. 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

WFC Inlet Project: Currently, the WFC is working with the Town of Westerly's engineers to answer questions the engineers have raised in the course of their review of the project. Work is expected to start in the Fall.

The WFD will not contribute funds towards the work at the Inlet. However, the WFD will improve the appearance of the WFD offices to compliment the redesigned Inlet.

It was suggested that the WFC send a member to each of the WFD meetings in the future to update the WFD on any changes to the plan that may occur, and to elicit feedback and suggestions from the Executive Committee.

Beach Boxes: Rick and Frank agreed to help Howard with the running of the beach boxes on June 14.

NEW BUSINESS:

15 Morris Road: Deming, Doug and Frank met with Daniel Hostettler, President and Managing Director of the Ocean House and Antonia

Korosec, Innkeeper of the Weekapaug Inn, to discuss an ad that had been placed on the OH website advertising the rental of 15 Morris Road for parties and weddings. The ad was a mistake and has been withdrawn. 15 Morris Road is being offered only as a family summer rental property. The meeting was cordial and the outcome was positive.

Nominating Committee: Doug will form a nominating committee to fill positions within the Executive Committee for the Annual Meeting in July.

Fire District Legislation: New legislation concerning additional financial reporting requirements for all fire districts was recently passed by the State General Assembly. A meeting to educate fire districts on the new legislation will take place sometime in July. WFD will send representatives to the meeting to better understand the new requirements and to determine how the legislation may impact the WFD.

ANNUAL MEETING: The 2014 Annual Meeting will take place on Friday, July 11 at 8:00 PM in the Weekapaug Chapel.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 28 at 8:00 AM in the Weekapaug Fire District Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Emily M. Mugge

Secretary